DC

GEOFF JOHNS GARY FRANK JON SIBAL

ACTION COMICS

860
FEB 08

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN and the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES PART THREE

COUNTDOWN 18

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SUPERMAN and the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

LIGHTNING AND SHADOWS

CHAPTER 3:

GEOFF JOHNS: WRITER // GARY FRANK: PENCILLER
JON SIBAL: INKER // DAVE McCAIG: COLORIST // ROB LEIGH: LETTERER
NACHIE CASTRO: ASSOCIATE EDITOR // MATT IDELSON: EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

ROCKETED TO EARTH FROM THE DOOMED PLANET KRYPTON, THE BABY KAL-EL WAS FOUND AND RAISED BY JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT IN SMALLVILLE, KANSAS. NOW AN ADULT, CLARK KENT FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE & THE AMERICAN WAY AS...

SUPERMAN

3008 A.D.

METROPOLIS.

FORMER HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES.

INSPIRED BY THE LEGEND OF SUPERMAN, TEENAGERS FROM ACROSS THE UNIVERSE JOURNEYED TO EARTH TO FORM A SUPER-TEAM UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN HISTORY. REPRESENTING DIVERSITY, UNITY AND TOLERANCE, THEY PROTECT ALL PLANETS AND ALL RACES OF THE 31ST CENTURY AS THE

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

RADIATION ROY - ROY TRAVICH.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: LIVING RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE.

IT'S THE REMNANTS OF A TIME SPHERE, ISN'T IT? YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T COME BACK HERE, EARTH-MAN.

YOU SAID SUPERMAN WOULD *NEVER* RETURN.

TUSKER - HORACE LAFERAUGH.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: UNBREAKABLE SKELETON.

STORM BOY - MYKE CHYPURZ.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: WEATHER MANIPULATION.

EARTH-MAN - KIRT NIEDRIGH.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: SUPER-POWER ABSORPTION AND DUPLICATION.

GOLDEN BOY - KLINT STEWART.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: MIDAS TOUCH, SOLID METAL BODY.

SPIDER-GIRL - SUSSA PAKA.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: WEB-LIKE HAIR.

HE WON'T.

THE MAJORITY BELIEVE THAT COSMIC BOY AND THE OTHERS *TWISTED* CLARK KENT'S STORY. THEY THINK THE LEGION LIED TO COERCE EARTH INTO WELCOMING *ALIENS* WITH OPEN ARMS.

IT'S OUR MISSION TO CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE "TRUTH" ABOUT THE GREATEST FIGURE IN *HISTORY*...

SUPERMAN WAS *NOT* AN ALIEN LIKE THE LEGIONNAIRES.

...HE WAS A *HUMAN* LIKE *US*.

RRZOOM

...KEEP THE... FAITH... ALIVE... KEEP CONTROL...

EARTH'S SUN *IS* RED NOW. EVEN IF SUPERMAN IS HERE, HE'S *POWERLESS*.

THEN THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO *END* IT, RIGHT?

TO FINALLY BE THE *CHOSEN* ONES AND NOT THE *REJECTED*.

NNR.

BRINGING SUPERMAN TO OUR TIME IS THE LEGION'S LAST DESPERATE MOVE.

AS SOON AS KAL-EL IS *DEAD*--

--HIS NAME AND STORY FOREVER BELONG TO *US*.

ALIEN HOLDING CAMP 6736.

WHERE IS THIS "UNDERGROUND" WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT, LEGIONNAIRE?

KRRAK

I WILL *BURN* YOUR SKIN OFF ONE *LAYER* AT A TIME--

--UNTIL YOU SPEAK.

SO SAY SOMETHING.

...LONG LIVE...THE LEGION.

PTT

LONG LIVE THE LEGION.

KRRAK

0226

BUT NOT *YOU*.

VEET VEET

WARDEN!

WE HAVE A CODE **RED**! I REPEAT, CODE **RED**!

WHAT?

THEY DROPPED FROM THE SKY. TORE RIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS.

WHO?

"THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!"

COLOSSAL BOY - GIM ALLON.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: GIANT GROWTH.

WILDFIRE - DRAKE BURROUGHS.
HOMEWORLD: EARTH.
ABILITIES: COMPOSED OF ANTI-ENERGY, ENERGY BLASTS AND MANIPULATION.

STAY BEHIND US, SUPERMAN. AND KEEP YOUR HEAD *DOWN.*

SUPERMAN - KAL EL.
HOMEWORLD: KRYPTON.
ABILITIES: FLIGHT, SUPER STRENGTH, SUPER SENSORY POWERS.

DAWNSTAR.
HOMEWORLD: STARHAVEN, EARTH COLONY.
ABILITIES: LONG-RANGE TRACKING.

THEY'LL BE SHOOTING TO *KILL.*

I'M PICKING UP BRAINIAC 5'S TRAIL...

...THROUGH THERE, WILDFIRE.

I'D ASK YOU JERKS TO GET OUTTA MY WAY--

--BUT WE'RE IN A BIT OF A *HURRY.*

BWOOSH

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RORANK

REVOLUTION.

I SEE A...DURLAN AND A KORUGARIAN MOTHER AND CHILD, BUT I DON'T SEE BRAINY, DAWNSTAR.

ARE YOU SURE HE'S--?

LOOK UP THERE!

IT'S HIM!

IT'S SUPERMAN!

THIS ISN'T SUPERMAN.

THUNK TCH

HE'S JUST *ANOTHER* LEGION FAKE IN A *CAPE.*

GET HIM!

DEATH OF SUPERMAN

YOU ALL RIGHT?

FINE.

I *AM* SUPERMAN.

SUPERMAN DOESN'T BLEED.

BRAINIAC 5 WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT KAL BACK. HE WAS THE ONE WITH A NEW PLAN.

WHERE IS HE?

HIS TRAIL DISAPPEARS IN THIS CELL, GIM. IT *ENDS.*

THEY KILLED BRAINY, DIDN'T THEY? I'M GOING TO *BURN* THOSE BASTARDS--

HE'S NOT *DEAD,* WILDFIRE.

I CAN SENSE A FAINT WORMHOLE RESIDUE. SOMEHOW, BRAINY *TELEPORTED* OUT OF HERE.

HE'S...BACK ON HIS HOME PLANET.

BACK ON *COLU.*

GREAT.

THE *ONE* PLANET MORE *HOSTILE* THAN EARTH.

YOU SAID THERE WAS ANOTHER LEGIONNAIRE BEING HELD HERE, DAWNSTAR.

WHERE ARE THEY?

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...

...INTO THE *FIRE.*

SSSSS

SIR, WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH SECURITY LEADERS ONE, TWO AND FOUR.

KZZAFF

118.2°

YYMMMMMM

SOMEONE'S CUT THE POWER.

118.1°

KYKK

KRAKKK

BRRRRRR

THERE--

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

POLAR BOY - BREK BANNIN
HOMEWORLD: THARR.
ABILITIES: COLD CONTROL.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE WEARING A LEGION FLIGHT RING AGAIN.

TUSKER ALMOST MADE SURE I COULDN'T.

KZZNGGG

I KNOW EVERYONE THOUGHT IT *WOULDN'T* BE SMART TO GET YOU INVOLVED, KAL, BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

THEY DON'T BELIEVE I'M SUPERMAN.

AFTER ALL THE TORMENT THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH, I'M NOT SURPRISED. THEY'VE BEEN BOMBARDED WITH ANTI-ALIEN PROPAGANDA ALONG WITH EVERY HUMAN MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD.

BUT BRAINIAC 5 HAS AN IDEA ON HOW TO CONVINCE THEM OF THE TRUTH. AND THE REST OF EARTH.

WHICH IS...?

HE DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE THE CHANCE TO TELL ME.

WE WERE ON OUR WAY UNDERGROUND WHEN WE WERE AMBUSHED BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

I HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE YET.

STRIP AWAY GOLDEN BOY'S FORTUNE, EARTH-MAN AND HIS LEAGUE ARE JUST A BUNCH OF *REJECTS* LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO THE TOP.

WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS REJECTED BY THE LEGION TOO. AND RIGHTFULLY SO. I COULDN'T CONTROL MY COLD ABILITIES. I NEARLY FROZE SUN BOY SOLID.

BUT I FOUND A WAY TO TURN IT INTO A POSITIVE. I HELPED FOUND THE *SUBSTITUTES* WITH A HANDFUL OF OTHER REJECTS. TOGETHER, WE TRAINED AS HARD AS WE COULD.

WE EARNED THE LEGION'S RESPECT. I EARNED THIS RING.

AND I EARNED *MINE.*

IT'S GETTING REALLY *DARK* IN HERE.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK, DRAKE.

IT'S ONLY US.

SHADOW LASS - TASMIA MALLOR.
HOMEWORLD: TALOK VIII
ABILITIES: GENERATE ABSOLUTE DARKNESS

NIGHT GIRL - LYDDA JATH.
HOMEWORLD: KATHOON
ABILITIES: SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, ACTIVATED IN DARKNESS

BREK!

NOT SO *TIGHT*, LYDDA.

I HAVE ENOUGH BROKEN RIBS.

IS...IS IT REALLY...?

IT'S SUPERMAN, SHADOW LASS.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, AND AFTER ALL THE DEBATE...

...I ALMOST STARTED TO BELIEVE I'D *IMAGINED* EVER MEETING HIM.

BUT THERE HE *IS*, TAS. RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

HEROES' SQUARE

SUPERMAN. LEGIONNAIRES. REFUGEES...

"COSMIC BOY, LIGHTNING LAD AND SATURN GIRL HELPED US UNCOVER OLD METROPOLIS AND REBUILD IT INTO AN UNDERGROUND SPACEPORT.

"FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WE'VE HELPED BEINGS FROM ALL ACROSS THE UNIVERSE FLEE EARTH. AND WITHOUT EVER HAVING TO GO PLANETSIDE.

"THE STARGATES AT THE FAR END OF THE CITY WERE DESIGNED BY BRAINIAC 5.

"THEY OPEN WORMHOLES THROUGH HYPERSPACE, GIVING US ACCESS TO EVERY SECTOR IN THE UNIVERSE."

WE'VE HELPED OVER TEN THOUSAND EXTRATERRESTRIALS ESCAPE THE ALIEN CONTAINMENT CAMPS AND RETURN HOME.

CAMPS? WE WEREN'T EXACTLY MAKING SNOW CONES AND TELLING GHOST STORIES.

IT'S NICE TO SEE THEY DIDN'T TAKE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR.

SENSE OF HUMOR WASN'T IN MY ARM.

THIS IS AMAZING, SHADOW LASS.

BUT ALL THE *POWER* THAT'S REQUIRED TO KEEP THIS *RUNNING*, WOULDN'T SOMEONE NOTICE THAT KIND OF ENERGY BEING SIPHONED OFF?

WE DON'T NEED *THEIR* ENERGY, KAL.

WE MAKE OUR *OWN*.

HRFF.

LONG TIME NO SEE, SUPERMAN.

KRAKKK

LIGHTNING LASS - AYLA RANZZ.
HOMEWORLD: WINATH.
ABILITIES: ELECTRICAL GENERATION AND DIRECTION.

TIMBER WOLF - BRIN LONDO.
HOMEWORLD: ZUUN
ABILITIES: SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH AND SPEED, HEIGHTENED SENSES AND CLAWS

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE LEGIONNAIRES?

RUMORS SAY EARTH-MAN AND HIS CREW BANISHED MON-EL BACK TO THE PHANTOM ZONE. SPIDER-GIRL TRADED WHITE WITCH TO MORDRU IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS STAYING OFF EARTH.

AND CHAMELEON BOY WENT BACK ***HOME*** TO DURLA TO HELP QUELL THE RIOTS. THE REST...WE DON'T REALLY KNOW.

LIGHTNING LASS AND I MADE IT HERE AFTER HER BROTHER LEFT.

THE FOUNDERS WENT SEARCHING FOR ***KRYPTONITE.*** PROOF THAT KRYPTON ***EXISTED.***

THEY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHIN' TO START SWAYING PUBLIC OPINION BACK OUR WAY.

'COURSE, BRINGING YOU HERE--WE GOT THE ***REAL DEAL*** NOW.

AW, QUIT KISSING HIS ***ASS,*** BRIN.

WHAT'S WRONG, WILDFIRE? YOU STILL IN A ***BAD MOOD*** BECAUSE DAWNSTAR DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY "FIND THE BATTERY" ANYMORE?

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, FIDO.

YEP. THE GANG'S GETTING BACK TOGETHER.

YOU HEARD ANY UPDATES ON ***OUR*** OLD CREW, NIGHT GIRL?

THE REST OF THE SUBSTITUTES WENT DEEP UNDER AFTER THE JUSTICE LEAGUE PUT DOUBLE-HEADER IN THE GROUND.

RUNNING AWAY?

PLANNING ***RETALIATION.***

THE STARGATE'S BEEN PROGRAMMED TO WARP US IN ORBIT OUTSIDE OF COLU

ONCE WE'RE THERE, I'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP BRAINY'S TRAIL AGAIN.

LET'S HOPE BRAINAIC 5'S ALL RIGHT. WORD IS COLU'S NEW LEADER HAS ORDERED THE ***ERADICATION*** OF ANY AND ALL BEINGS THAT HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH HUMANS.

KA-ZAAAT

WHO'S THIS NEW LEADER?

YOUR THOUGHTS ARE STRETCHING ***MILES*** AWAY FROM YOU, LEGIONNAIRES. LEADING ME RIGHT TO YOU LIKE THE SMELL OF A ***RED ROSE.***

I HAVE TO REMEMBER TO THANK SATURN GIRL FOR THE ***TELEPATHY.***

WE DON'T KNOW, COLOSSAL BOY--

I CAN HEAR YOUR ***THOUGHTS,*** SHADOW LASS. WISHING MON-EL WAS AT YOUR SIDE.

AND YOU, COLOSSAL BOY. MOURNING FOR YOUR WIFE. THE DIRTY ***DURLAN*** THAT SHE WAS.

YERA?

KRAKOOM

AND LIGHTNING LAD FOR *THIS*.

JUSTICE LEAGUE.

ATTACK.

SPAAEEE!

THANKS FOR THE *SHADOW BOOST*, TAS.

NOW LET'S CRACK THIS CAN *OPEN*.

KRRAK

KRAKOOM

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY *BROTHER*?

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TIMBER WOLF?

HOGGING ALL THE FUN, CHIEF WHA-HOO.

YOU NEED TO GET YOUR GANG AND GET SUPERMAN *OUT* OF HERE.

I'M *NOT* RUNNING AWAY.

LAUNCH COMMENCING.

IT'S MORE IMPORTANT *YOU* FIND BRAINIAC 5. EVEN EARTH-MAN ISN'T GOING TO FOLLOW YOU TO COLU.

COLOSSAL BOY. WILDFIRE. POLAR BOY.

HELP ME *DRAG* KAL INTO THIS POD. WE NEED TO LEAVE.

NO--

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN *GOOD*, KAL! AND THE *LEGION'S!*

SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, TUSKY.

THIS IS *OUR* DEN.

BOOM!!!

STOP, YOU BULLIES!

NO, DAMN YOU.

THIS IS *OUR* CHANCE.

FWOOSH

EENK EENK EENK EENK EENK

TIMBER WOLF. THAT IDIOT.

IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, DRAKE.

"STORM BOY SHORTED OUT TWO OF OUR THRUSTERS.

"EVERYONE BRACE YOURSELVES."

BOOM

KNOWLEDGE.

Nnn.

WE HUNGER FOR NEW KNOWLEDGE.

GIVE IT TO US.

AaAARGH!

Nng.

GREETINGS, ALIEN.

BRAINY?

I AM *BRAINIAC 5.* THE UNDISPUTED *LEADER* OF THE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION OF *COLU.*

YOU AND YOUR *SMALL-MINDED* COMPANIONS HAVE INTERRUPTED THE INFORMATION FLOW.

FOR THAT CRIME AND THE CRIME OF BEING *TAINTED* BY HUMANS--

--YOU ARE TO BE *TERMINATED.*

NEXT: *SECRETS* OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* OF *EARTH!!*

Hello, everyone! Jann Jones, Senior Coordinating Editor, here again. Dan is currently busy, out spreading holiday cheer. He asked me to wish all the members of the DC Nation the Happiest of Holidays!! We hope that this season brings you much joy. I personally hope that this is the year I finally find an alpaca under my tree.

DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

Next in...

ACTION COMICS #861

As Supes parties with Brainiac 5 and five billion of his closest friends, we learn secrets of the JLA!

THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK

COUNTDOWN #18

DEATH OF THE NEW GODS #4

GREEN LANTERN #26

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